

~~SECRET~~

Project - HSC.

NOV 10 1955

General W. B. Kraskine, U.S.M.C. (Ret.)
Director, Special Operations
Department of Defense
Room 3B 1036, Pentagon

Dear General Kraskine:

By a Secret letter from Headquarters USAF dated 2 September 1955, Designation of Watertown Airstrip, the Department of the Air Force has activated and currently maintains a classified training facility at Watertown Strip, Nevada. The Department of the Air Force and this Agency are participating jointly in highly sensitive activities at this location.

The State of Nevada has certain accident insurance laws which require that employers contribute to the State of Nevada's Accident Compensation Fund. U. S. Government employees are not subject to this law. In the joint project at Watertown Strip it becomes necessary, from time to time, that personnel of contractors engaged in certain phases of the project travel to the site of the work. The fact that these contractors have interests in the work at the site is a matter which must be withheld from authorities of the State of Nevada for the foreseeable future. Of paramount importance is the absolute necessity not to associate this Agency with the facility.

As a solution to this problem, we would like to request that the Department of Defense obtain a Schedule A appointment authority from the U. S. Civil Service Commission for this activity which we shall designate the "Desert Training Center". Once granted, this authority would be used exclusively by the Commanding Officer of Watertown Strip to appoint, on a without-compensation basis, those employees of the contractors who are required to render technical advice and assistance at the site. The effect of the appointment would, of course, give the individuals involved a bona fide status as U. S. Government employees

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

and would provide a means whereby the State of Nevada's requirements would not be applicable to their limited presence in the State. The Department of Defense would not be concerned with cases involving the use of this authority except to refer to us for appropriate handling of inquiries that might be received by the Department of Defense. Several discussions have been had with members of your Department on two similar installations which resulted in the U. S. Civil Service Commission granting a sterilized Schedule A appointment authority.

In the event this request meets with your approval, I am attaching a draft of a letter which you may forward to the Chairman of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. It would be appreciated if substantive changes in this draft be coordinated with our Director of Personnel, [redacted] A member of

[redacted] staff will also be available to discuss further with you or your representative, as necessary, details pertaining to this request, and also to present verbal justification to the Civil Service Commission, if desired.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

15/
L. K. White
Deputy Director

Enclosure (1)

Originator: 15/
Director of Personnel

Date: 20 Nov 55

Concurrences:

15/
SA/PC/DCI

Date: 20 NOV 1955

Distribution:

- O&I - Addressee
- 1 - SA/PC/DCI
- 1 - Gen. Coun.
- 1 - D/Sec
- 2 - DD/S
- 2 - D/Pers

15/
General Counsel

Date: 30 Nov 55

15/
Dep Director of Security

Date: 20 Nov 55

OF [redacted]
(25 Nov 55)

~~SECRET~~STAT
STAT

STAT

UNCLASSIFIED

D R A F T

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. Philip Young, Chairman
United States Civil Service Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Young:

The Desert Training Center at Indiantown Strip, Nevada, is an installation of the Department of Defense engaged in special training activities. These activities are of such a nature as to preclude the use of regular appointment procedures for the employment of personnel. We are, therefore, requesting that the Department be granted a special Schedule A authority for the appointment of all categories of personnel at this particular installation.

Very truly yours,

Carter L. Burgess
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Manpower and Personnel)

D R A F T

UNCLASSIFIED